

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ASPULL



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1954

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OF
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OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—

T. SPENCER, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Urban District Council of Aspull

*To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first report on the health of the district and am taking this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council and to the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area : 1906 acres.

Population (Census 1951) : 6522.

Estimated mid-1954 (Registrar General) : 6510.

Total Number of Houses : 1984.

Rateable Value : £21,138.

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £83.

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.

Industries : One Cotton Mill and One Engineering Works.

VITAL STATISTICS

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<i>Live Births</i>	Legitimate 50	50	100
	Illegitimate —	—	—
<i>Still Births</i>	Legitimate 3	6	2
	Illegitimate —	—	—
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</i>	2	—	2
<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</i>	— 2	—	2

VITAL STATISTICS, 1954

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population :

Total (all forms) —

Crude Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	12. 7
Adjusted Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	15. 2
Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.15
Malignant neoplasms, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	2.61

Live birth rates per 1,000 estimated population —

Crude Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	15. 4
Adjusted Rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	15. 1

Still birth rate per 1,000 total birth 83

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births Nil

Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births 20

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births 20

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1954.

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1
Diabetes	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14
Coronary disease, angina	14
Other heart disease	17
Bronchitis	3
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8
All other accidents	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1
Suicide	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA : LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1954 reports were made to the authority on 38 examinations of milk, 4 of water and one of ice cream.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year, Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council, stationed at Hindley and Standish.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water from Bolton Corporation, Wigan Rural District Council and Liverpool Corporation. The source of supply is upland surface and is found to be bacteriologically pure. During the year 4 examinations of the piped supply were made and these proved satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main.

No. of houses with piped supply	.....	.....	.....	1984
direct from the public water main	.....	.....	.....
Number of houses supplied from	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Spring, etc.	.....	.....	.....
Number of houses supplied by	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Standpipe	.....	.....	.....

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The combined system of drainage is in operation throughout the district. All dwellings with the exception of 18 isolated cottages and farms have a water carriage system of sanitation. The installation of a septic tank for 4 cottages was in progress at the end of the year.

During the year 85 inspections were made in connection with drainage and conversions.

Number of choked drains cleared by the Authority	15
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The Sanitary Accommodation in the district at the end of the year was: —

Number of Fresh Water Closets	1905
Number of Pail Closets	.....	.....	.....	16
Number of Privy Middens	.....	.....	.....	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging is under control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

The collection and disposal of household refuse is under supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

One Driver and 4 Labourers are engaged whole time on refuse collection work. All refuse is tipped at the Marsh House Tip. During the year difficulty in maintaining an adequate service was experienced and the Council purchased a 16 cubic yard S.D. Freighter of the fore and aft tipper type.

There are 2,100 dustbins, 16 pail closets and 1 privy midden within the district.

Approximate number of dustbins emptied	75,000
„ „ „ pail closets emptied	650
„ „ weight of refuse removed (tons)	2,050

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances :

No. of Informal Notices Served	169
No. of Statutory Notices Served	39
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	39
No. of Defects and nuisances found	340
No. abated	310

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

There are no licensed caravans or sites within the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There are 2 factory chimneys in the district and no action has been found necessary during the year. The emission of black smoke is allowed for a period of 2 minutes per hour.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year 5 houses infested with bed bugs were fumigated with 5% D.D.T. Spray and D.D.T. Fumers. This treatment has proved highly efficient.

RODENT CONTROL.

50 infestations of rats or mice were cleared during the year in addition to the two sewer tests and treatments. The treatment of dwelling houses is free of charge but a charge is made for treatment of business premises.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no registered premises within the district.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Premises	M/C line No.	No. of Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted	M/C line No.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	—	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	6	12	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises).	3	1	2	—	—	3
TOTAL		7	14	—	—	

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 AND 1936.

12 Licenses to store petroleum were issued during the year and 14 inspections were made for the purpose. One new 1,000 gallon storage tank was installed during the year.

4. HOUSING

The township consists chiefly of working class houses which are old in type and are constantly falling into disrepair.

Overcrowding exists only to a minor degree and those requiring houses are married couples having to live with parents. 35 new housing applications were received during the year.

The erection of 16 old people's bungalows made good progress during the year and 26 houses, erected by the Council's Direct Labour Department, were tenanted.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

Traditional permanent houses :

(i) By the Local Authority .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
(ii) By other Authorities .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	230
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	520
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	190

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	112
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs .....	.....	.....	.....	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :				
(a) By owners .....	.....	.....	.....	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	.....	.....	.....	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	.....	39
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners .....	.....	39
(b) By local authority in default of owners .....	.....	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	.....	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	.....	4
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings "not to occupy" were accepted by the local authority .....	.....	—
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	.....	1
(2) Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit .....	.....	—
(e) Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of clearance area represented .....	.....	—
(2) Number of houses concerned in (1) .....	.....	—
(3) Number of areas cleared .....	.....	—
(4) Number of houses concerned in (3) .....	.....	—
(5) Number of residents displaced in (3) and (4) .....	.....	—
(6) Number of houses built by local authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders .....	.....	—
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :		
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	.....	—
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .....	.....	—
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	.....	—
(b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	.....	—
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	.....	—
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	.....	—

5. HOUSING ACTS, 1949-54—Improvement grants, etc. :

(a) (i)	Number of Schemes submitted—					
	(a) By private individuals to local authority .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
	(b) By local authority to Ministry .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(b) (i)	Number of Schemes finally approved .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(iii)	Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved Schemes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
(d)	Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(1) Milk Supply.

During the year licences under the Milk and Dairies regulations, 1949, were issued to the following :

Dealers in Sterilised Milk .....	.....	.....	.....	17
Dealers in Pasteurised Milk .....	.....	.....	.....	3
Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk .....	.....	.....	.....	1
Distributors .....	.....	.....	.....	3

The following is a record of action taken in relation to sampling :

(a) Raw Milk—

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No result
(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests	14	14	—	—
(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test	11	7	4	—
(iii) B. Coli. examinations	9	9	—	—
(iv) Sediment tests	—	—	—	—

(b) "Heat treated" Milk—

(i) Tuberculosis	2	Neg. 2 Pos.—	—
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" Pasteurised"—

(ii) Phosphatase test	—	—	—	—
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(iii) Methylene Blue reductinn test	1	1	—	—
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" Sterilised"—

(iv) Turbidity test	1	1	—	—
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2. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS :

There is one small slaughter-house in the district, but the bulk of the meat supply to the district is from wholesalers in the County Borough of Wigan.

There was one successful prosecution of a butcher with unsatisfactory premises during the year.

46 animals were inspected at the slaughterhouse in the district and in 10 cases some part or organ was condemned.

Evidence of *cysticercus bovis* was not found in any instance.

The following is a list of food premises within the district :

Type of Business	
General grocers and provision dealers	30
Greengrocers and fruiterers (incl. those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	6
Fishmongers (incl. those selling poultry, game, etc.)	—
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	5
Bakers and/or confectioners	7
Fried fish shops	7
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	7
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	8
Others	—

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was as follows :

Ice Cream retailers	18
Preserved Food Premises	4

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district during 1954.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1954 was one of the lowest on record, 20 cases in all being notified.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Free immunisation against diphtheria is provided at the clinic, and during the year 83 pre school and 25 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid, and 118 children received reinforcing injections.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the enteric group was undertaken during 1954.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remain high and the cases of head lice dealt with at the clinic were few and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation of houses is carried out by "Sanitas Fumigators" and bedding and clothing are steam disinfected by arrangement with Hindley U.D. Council.

CANCER.

16 deaths (11 male and 5 females) were certified as due to cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Aspull residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at Wigan Infirmary, which for this purpose is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1954.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	1	AGE PERIODS — YEARS					25	45
			3	5	10	15			
Scarlet Fever	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excl. Rubella)	9	1	6	1	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia (prim. and Infl'zal)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	6	1	—	—	2	2	1	—	—
T.B. Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTAL	20	2	8	2	3	2	2	1	

TUBERCULOSIS.

The dispensary service is under control of the Regional Hospital Board and Aspull cases attend at the Chest Clinic in Millgate, Wigan.

6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. 1 death from pulmonary tuberculosis was registered in 1954.

The table below shows notifications by age group for 1954.

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES

Period Age	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		
	M	F	M	F	
0— 1	—	—	—	—	
1— 5	—	1	—	—	
5—10	—	—	—	—	
10—15	—	2	—	—	
15—20	2	—	—	—	
20—25	—	—	—	—	
25—35	—	1	—	—	
35—45	—	—	—	—	
45—55	—	—	1	—	
55—65	—	—	—	—	
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	
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TOTALS	2	4	1	—	
	<hr/>		<hr/>		
	6		1		

